

NCTE PROMISING YOUNG WRITERS

This year's theme, "Looking for the Real Me," is one that connects closely with adolescents' lives. Many eighth graders invest a great deal of time and energy in their "search for self," and the theme of looking for one's real self often appears in adolescent literature and in teen's own writing.

We welcome you to incorporate the Promising Young Writers' theme and writing prompt into your curriculum. In fact, we hope that "Looking for the Real Me" is an idea that you may want all of your students to explore through their writing and reading. If so, you may be interested in making connections in your classes to the literature and teaching

ideas presented at the ALAN (Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the National Council of Teachers of English <http://www.alan-ya.org/>) workshop on "Looking for the Real Me" held at the 2010 NCTE convention in Orlando. Also, if your state has adopted the Common Core State Standards, it may be helpful to note that nominees for the Promising Young Writers program may choose to write their thematic piece in any genre—including the narratives, arguments, and informative/explanatory texts that the Common Core requires for eighth grade writers.

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Deviation from these rules and procedures may disqualify a student's entry.

Eligibility

Eighth grade students in the present academic school year are eligible to be nominated for the Promising Young Writers program.

Number of Nominees

The number of nominees allowed from each school is determined by the eighth-grade average daily enrollment. Use the following guide:

Average Daily Enrollment	
Under 100	1 nominee
100–199	2 nominees
200–299	3 nominees
300–399	4 nominees
400–499	5 nominees
500 or more	6 nominees

Selection of Nominees

All nominees must demonstrate evidence of effective writing. Each school selects its own nominee or nominees: one or more eighth graders (based on number allowed as explained above) agreed upon by school committee or department. It is strongly recommended that nominees not be selected by an individual teacher. Home-schooled students may submit through a cooperating school.

Students will submit two pieces each; one writing theme-based and one "Best" writing or an excerpt from a "best" piece.

Procedures for Entering

- Complete **one nomination form for each student** (attached form may be photocopied). **Select one teacher to represent your school.** Therefore, one form per student and one nominating teacher per school.
- Mail one completed nomination form and a \$5.00 entry fee for each student nominated (make check in U.S. funds payable to NCTE or use credit card).**
Promising Young Writers
NCTE
1111 W. Kenyon Road
Urbana, IL 61801-1096
- For each nominee, mail the following writing samples to your current State Coordinator by February 1, 2011:**
 - Three** sets of papers with one copy of the Best Writing Sample stapled to one copy of the Theme Writing for each student.
 - One** copy of the completed nomination form for each student.

List of 2011 State Coordinators will be posted on NCTE's website at <http://www.ncte.org/awards/student/pyw> in January. You may also send an email to pyw@ncte.org to receive the mailing address for your state coordinator.

NOTE: NCTE receives the entry form and payment. State Coordinator receives all student papers and a copy of the entry form for each student.

For Information on This Program

Program and state coordinator information may be found at www.ncte.org/awards/student/pyw
Contact NCTE at Phone: 1-800-369-6283, ext. 3608 ■ Fax: 217-328-0977 ■ email: pyw@ncte.org

Entries

Two written compositions by each nominated student are required.

- 1. BEST WRITING SAMPLE** A sample of writing that the student considers his or her best work, regardless of amount of revision. Research papers, term papers, or novels **will not** be accepted by state coordinators.
- 2. THEME WRITING** The theme topic, developed by the Promising Young Writers Advisory Committee, is a common topic on which all students entering the program must write.

Directions for Best and Theme Writing

- a. Printed from a computer in legible black type (no smaller than 12 point) or handwritten using dark ink
- b. Double-spaced (except for poetry)
- c. Margins are 1" on all sides (except for poetry)
- d. Page number is in the upper right-hand corner
- e. Printed on one side of 8.5 x 11 inch paper
- f. Student's name and "Best" or "Theme" appear in the upper left-hand corner of each page
- g. School name does *not* appear on the papers or within the body of writing
- h. Max pages for theme is four (4) pages. Max pages for best paper is seven (7) pages. An excerpt from a larger piece is acceptable with a paragraph explaining the piece from which the excerpt was taken.

2011 Theme

Looking for the Real Me

As you grow older, you meet more and more people. Some of them know you well, and some know just a little about you. No two people know you in exactly the same way, and the many people you meet may describe you in very different ways. You may even describe yourself in different ways at different times and to different people. If you notice that your feelings, thoughts, or actions change depending on whom you are with, where you are, and what you are doing, you may begin to wonder: "Who is the real me?"

Use your experiences and/or imagination to write an original piece about what it is like to be a person who is looking for his or her "real" self. You may write in

your preferred genre (such as drama, poetry, short story, narratives, op ed piece, science fiction, memoir, news article, etc.). If you find it helpful to state the audience for your writing at the top of your piece, you are welcome to do so. Remember that your writing for this themed piece should be no longer than four pages.

Judging

Teams of teachers at the state level will judge the writing and select Promising Young Writers. Papers will be judged on content, purpose, audience, tone, word choice, organization, development, and style. Judges take into account that the writers are eighth-grade students, not professional writers.

The number of winners in each state may not exceed the number of that state's delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Virgin Islands, and American Schools Abroad are limited to two winners each. The District of Columbia and Canada are limited to four winners.

Awards

Each student who enters and writes will receive a citation. Certificates of Recognition will be awarded to students cited as winners. Certificates of Participation will be awarded to other nominees who write. All certificates will be mailed to the school principals. Additionally, winners' names are posted on NCTE's website along with the school name, city, and state.

Optional Permission for Future Use of Student Papers

In some cases, NCTE or its Affiliates may wish to use student papers for research purposes, to publish them in print or electronic publications, or to otherwise display them. Students who desire to have their papers considered for such use or publication must have a parent (or legal guardian) sign the nomination form. If permission is granted, use of a student's paper is at NCTE's and its Affiliates' discretion.

Lack of parental signature will not prevent a student from participating in this program or from being designated a winner.

PROMISING YOUNG WRITERS

Nomination Form **Deadline to mail entry: February 1, 2011**

Entry forms should be mailed to NCTE as early as possible.

Please read and follow these directions carefully (any deviation may disqualify student's entry).

1. Nominees must be in the eighth grade in the present school year.
2. The number of nominees allowed from each school is determined by the eighth-grade average daily enrollment. See chart on page 1.
3. **Complete a Nomination Form for each nominee; one student per form; one nominating teacher per school. This form may be photocopied.**
4. **A \$5.00 entry fee is required for each student nominated.**
5. Submit this form and entry fee together at one time to NCTE. If your school submits more than one

form, staple all forms together and submit them all in the same envelope to: **Promising Young Writers, NCTE, 1111 W. Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801-1096.**

6. Send student papers to State Coordinator with a copy of the entry form as per instructions on page 1.
7. **Nominations postmarked after February 1, 2011, are subject to disqualification.**
8. **Please keep copies of student papers and a completed copy of this form for each student, including date mailed.**
9. **No student papers are returned.**

CHECKLIST

- ☐ \$5.00 fee and completed Nomination Form mailed to NCTE.
- ☐ 3 sets of student papers (best/theme) and 1 copy of the completed nomination form for each student sent to the current State Coordinator.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- ☐ Check enclosed
(in U.S. funds and payable to NCTE)
- ☐ Charge my MasterCard
- ☐ Charge my VISA

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Account No.

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Exp. Date

Name on Account

Signature

Please type or print the information requested below. Form(s) cannot be processed unless each line is completed. Parental consent line optional. One student per form.

Name of school _____ School telephone (_____) _____
(area code)

School address _____
(number) (street) (city) (state) (zip)

Principal _____

Nominating teacher _____ email _____
(last name) (first name)

Total number of nominees _____ Number entitled _____ Eighth-grade average daily enrollment _____

Student's name _____
(last name) (first name)

Student's home address _____
(number) (street) (city) (state) (zip)

Signature of student _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian _____
By my signature, I agree to give NCTE and its Affiliates permission to use the student's work for research and/or to publish or otherwise display the work in all print and electronic media along with the student's name, school, and location.

Signature of nominating teacher _____

Signature of principal _____

Names of students receiving certificates of recognition will be listed on NCTE's website (www.ncte.org/awards/student/pyw) along with the school name, city, and state.

2011

NCTE
PROMISING YOUNG
WRITERS PROGRAM

2011

NCTE PROMISING YOUNG WRITERS

For Eighth-Grade Students

Entries and fees must be mailed by February 1, 2011.

The Promising Young Writers program represents NCTE's commitment to early and continuing work in the development of writing. The school-based writing program was established in 1985 to stimulate and recognize students' writing talents and to emphasize the importance of writing skills among eighth-grade students.

Eighth-grade students who have been nominated by their schools in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, American Schools Abroad, Canada, and the Virgin Islands may participate in the program. Students who submit papers will receive either a Certificate of Recognition or a Certificate of Participation to recognize their efforts.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the NASSP National Advisory List of Student Contests and Activities for 2010–2011.



NOTE: An entry fee of \$5.00 per student is required to help cover administrative costs.